GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3629
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Procurement Mechanism and Crop Plan
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to implement its plan of direct purchasing of commodities from farmers and if so, the details thereof and the specific policy decisions taken to improve the procurement mechanism;

(b) whether the Government is planning to push contract farming with a regulator to ensure supply-demand predictability for farmers and consumers and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is working on a new crop plan to end the cultivation of cane and paddy crops in rain shadow areas and incentivize crop location to geographies with scientific rationale and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the average level of wastage and loss for all cereals, fruits, horticulture products in the country during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a): There is already a mechanism under which Government purchases commodities at Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly from the farmers to eliminate possibility of middlemen taking advantage of the scheme. To maintain uniformity & transparency in procurement operations, reporting of purchase is made through online mechanism and procuring agencies are required to display the details of purchases on a daily basis on their website. Purchase Centres are established close to the CWC / SWC godown, processing mill to reduce the transportation cost. Further, in order to provide the direct interface between the farmers and processors, wholesale buyers and consumers so as to eliminate the middlemen and enhance the farmers' share in consumers' rupee, Government, through persuasion with the States to amend their marketing laws, is promoting direct marketing. The model law on marketing released on 24th April, 2017 for adoption to the States clearly and factitively provides this provision.

Contdâ€¦2/-

(b): To integrate the farmers with processing industries so as to enhance their sustained income with least price risk and to reduce post-harvest losses, Government is in the process of formulation of model law on contract farming for its adoption by the States.

(c): There is no specific plan to end sugarcane and paddy crops in rain shadow areas. However, Government encourages farmers for judicious use of irrigation water by promoting water saving devices like drip irrigation systems in sugarcane. Government is implementing a crop diversification programme (CDP), as a sub scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) to diversify water guzzling paddy crop in the states of Punjab, Haryana & western Uttar Pradesh from 2013-14 with an aim to restore depleting water table and soil fertility.

(d): The Government commissioned a study titled 'Harvest and Post-Harvest Losses of Major Crops and Livestock Produce in India' through Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) - Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET), Ludhiana in 2010 to assess wastage of agriculture produce. The same study was repeated in 2012, which submitted the report in March 2015. The percentages of post-harvest losses for major produces as assessed by the studies for the years 2005-06 and 2012-13 are at Annexure-I.